

UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS  
OFFICE OF  
BRAD CARSON  
CONGRESSMAN

<http://www.carson.house.gov>



**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT:  
Brad Luna  
(202) 225-2701

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2003

***Carson Announces Tar Creek Buy-Out Plan  
Congressman's Plan Focuses On Introduction Of Legislation***

Washington, D.C. --

Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson announced today a legislative proposal that would instruct the Environmental Protection Agency to buy-out residents of the Tar Creek superfund site in Northeast Oklahoma. Congressman Carson's announcement comes during a speech at the 5th National Conference on Tar Creek hosted by the L.E.A.D. Agency, Inc. at the Miami Civic Center from 3:00 to 4:00 pm (CST).

"Even if the Environmental Protection Agency could come in and start tomorrow the abatement of every hazardous substance at Tar Creek (assuming those can be adequately identified and safe levels quantified), it would still be years before meaningful results could be achieved, and this only at the cost of million and millions of dollars," stated Congressman Carson. "But more importantly, the abatement of every hazardous substance, which itself seems unlikely, will do absolutely nothing to deal with the other problems at Tar Creek. It is time for more drastic action."

Congressman Carson's introduction into the United States House of Representatives legislation titled, "The Tar Creek Restoration Act" would instruct the Environmental Protection Agency, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to start a buy-out process of homes in the Tar Creek Superfund site. The legislation states, "the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide relocation assistance under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4621 et seq.) to residents on the Tar Creek Superfund site in Oklahoma. The Environmental Protection Agency shall be considered the displacing agency for the purposes of the application of that Act."

"This buyout would guarantee that every resident who chose to leave the area would receive fair market value for his or her property. Fair market value of the property without the obvious depreciation for being located in a Superfund site," Carson went on to state. "This buyout would ensure that ever resident, regardless of the value of the property being purchased in the Superfund site, would have to access to decent, safe, and

sanitary housing. This is an extraordinary remedy, but Tar Creek is an extraordinary case.”

Congressman Carson shared his views regarding the delayed release of the CEQ Report and the potential findings, stating, “Unfortunately, nearly eighteen months later, we still wait with bated-breath for the CEQ to release its report. I am proceeding with the Tar Creek Restoration Act because I believe that the CEQ report will support relocation of at least Picher and Cardin. Quite simply, I believe that any team of technical experts, such as the CEQ, will have to conclude that relocation must be done to ensure the safety of Tar Creek residents. Moreover, at the risk of sounding rather conspiracy-minded, I believe that one of the reasons that the CEQ report has still not been released, is because it supports a federal relocation of Picher and Cardin.”

“The federal role in creating the problems at Tar Creek is undeniable,” stated Carson. “The federal responsibility to enact a comprehensive solution to Tar Creek has long be evaded, but it is urgent and inescapable. That is why anyone who aspires to be a leader for Oklahoma must be willing to present a complete solution, which I believe must include a buy-out of the residents of Tar Creek.”

“Twenty-five years of neglect, omission, occasional fraud, and political shuffling must come to a stop. Two congressmen before me have tried to deal with Tar Creek; I commit today that no one after me will have to do so.”

- 30 -

###